

Virginia Board for Towing and Recovery Operators (BTRO)
January 7, 2009 – 10:30 AM
Science Museum of Virginia
2500 West Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23220

Final Minutes

Members Present:

Mark Sawyers-Chair
Ray Drumheller
Cary Coleman
Ray Hodge
Roy Boswell
Randy Seibert
Charlie Brown
Gary Teter
Ron Miner
Archie Orr
Scott Wyatt
Lieutenant Curtis Hardison (Designee of the Virginia State Police)
Brock H. Cole (Designee of the Commissioner of Department of Motor Vehicles)

Members Absent:

Woody Herring
Andres Alvarez (Designee of the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services)

Staff Present:

J. Marc Copeland – Acting Executive Director
Rachel Swyers – Executive Intern

Staff absent:

Daphane Phillips – Administrative Assistance
Jeff Spencer, Esq., Senior Assistant Attorney General

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:45pm.

Executive Director's Report:

Mr. Copeland stated that there are over 5,000-credential total in the licensing system. The first run went out on December 22. There were (410) credential mailed on January 6, and another (250) will go out soon, depending on the approval rate. There will be multiple printing every week until the process has caught up to where we can key it daily. The Board is in the process of hiring contractors who will be keying applications onsite, so we will not be in the same situations as Department of Health Profession. The Board is receiving about 30 to 50 applications a day and this process will take twice as long to key into the system because of the different fields that needs to be completed. Mr. Copeland hopes to be on schedule by the end of January.

Mr. Copeland has received report from some on the quality of the decals. He has talked with the manufacture and Department of Health Professions and they will revisit the quality and report on the process soon. He asked that if a problem accrues with any of the credenting, please send the board an email. Mr. Copeland thanked all for being patient during this process because of the entire backlog that accrued. He is in the process of hiring more staff to clear up the backlog.

Public comments:

Due to the acoustic in the Discovery room the recorder was unable to pick up comments from the public.

Chairman Sawyers closed the public comment period.

Chair Report:

Mr. Sawyers reemphasized what Mr. Copeland said about transferring the licensing process to the Board. This will give the Board complete control and get the job done successfully. There are always issues when starting a new process, but the Board will get it done properly. Mr. Sawyers asked if there are any reports on locality enforcing the codes. They should not be enforcing until further notices. If anyone hears of any enforcement with the codes, please let Mr. Copeland know as soon as possible.

Discussions on DMV's Salvage/Abandoned Vehicle Report:

Chairman Sawyer has attended the meeting last week as a tower not a Board member. They told them that there was no official committee for that task force and that anyone could attend. The overall perception was that the towers would like storage and mechanic lien process to stay the same.

Discussion of Draft Legislative Proposal from Virginia Realtors Association:

Mr. Seibert moved that the Board support this recommendation and endorse the Draft Legislative Proposal, Mr. Brown seconded, and all were in favor of this motion.

Further discussion of potential legislation from the Board relating to tow truck license plates, as necessary:

Mr. Copeland states that he would be present at the General Assembly and report on any situations that may come up with the Board.

Additional public Comments, at the discretion of the Chairman:

There were various discussions on requirement for worker's comp insurance. Mr. Copeland adds that the only requirements that the Board has, is that each tower has what the state requires for workers compensations.

Mr. Brown asked if Mr. Sawyers would appoint a committee to deal with complaints.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting scheduled for March 31 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment:

Chairman Sawyers called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Coleman made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Brown; the adjournment passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:39 p.m.